



NAVY NEWS



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Forward ... from the Sea

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SECNAV announces the battleship New Jersey donation

By the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs)

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Secretary of the Navy Richard Danzig announced Jan. 20 that the battleship New Jersey (BB 62) will be donated to Home Port Alliance, Camden, N.J. The fiscal year 1999 Defense Authorization Act required that the Secretary of the Navy transfer the vessel to a qualified organization in accordance with 10 USC Section 7306 and, as a condition of the transfer, that

the vessel be located in the state of New Jersey.

The Navy is gratified that the battleship will be located in its namesake state, where it will be displayed in remembrance of the valiant service of its crew and as a testimonial to the tireless efforts of the men and women who built and maintained it.

The Navy received two applications for donation of the New Jersey from quali-

fied organizations (the USS New Jersey Battleship Commission and the Home Port Alliance) located in Bayonne and Camden, N.J., respectively. Applicants, with strong support from their respective localities, worked extremely hard in developing comprehensive plans to operate and maintain the museum in a manner celebrating the New Jersey's

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New change in Joint Federal Travel Regulations

By Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Sailors stationed overseas needing to go home on emergency leave will have one less worry on their minds, thanks to a recent change in the Joint Federal Travel Regulations (JFTR).

The Per Diem, Travel and Transportation Allowance committee recently approved a change to the JFTR. This change allows the cost of emergency leave transportation to a continental U.S. (CONUS) international airport nearest the location from which a member/dependents departs to be used as a cost limit for transportation to any other airport in CONUS that is closer to the member's desired destination.

For example, if a Sailor on emergency leave is supposed to fly from Rome to New York but wants to go all the way to Chicago, he now can apply the cost of the trip to New York (the Navy's share of the flight) against the cost of a ticket to Chicago. But he must find alternate transportation to Chicago that doesn't cost

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Got Snow?



Aviation Boatswain's Mate 1st Class Dan Guidry, from DeQuincy, La., assesses the accumulation of snow on the 4.5-acre flightdeck aboard USS Harry S Truman (CVN 75), the U.S. Navy's newest nuclear powered aircraft carrier.
U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 1st Class Aaron J. Lebsack.

Navy observes MLK birthday

By the Navy Wire Service

WASHINGTON (NNS) — The U.S. Navy observed the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. last week with various ceremonies around the world. Inport or underway, Sailors commemorated the accomplishments of Dr. King through this year's theme, "Remember! Celebrate! Act! A day on, not a day off!"

USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) Sailors gathered at Fleet Activities Yokosuka's Fleet Recreation Center in Japan to remember Dr. King. Sailors marched from the Fleet Recreation Center to the nearby 38-year-old aircraft carrier while carrying a banner proclaiming the theme of this year's celebration.

USS Kitty Hawk's commanding officer, Capt. Matthew Tuohy, and Rear Adm. Timothy Keating, commander, Battle Force 7th

Fleet, met the marchers as they reached the ship. In the carrier's cavernous hangar bay, the two Navy leaders urged Sailors to continue the legacy

and sisters and most important of all, I submit, to our children? Go out and make things better. Take a position. Take a stance. Do something."

nations, color and creed.

Religious Programs Specialist 3rd Class Queenie McCollum, read an original poem during the ceremony.

"His dream finally did come true," said the Mount Olive, Miss., native. "We see it every day. "He took the initiative to do some-

"I refuse to accept the view that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality."

— Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

of Dr. King's teachings that changed the Navy and the nation forever.

"Remember what Dr. King said," Rear Adm. Keating announced to Kitty Hawk Sailors: "I refuse to accept the view that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality."

"Think about what he had in mind when he said that," added Keating. "It isn't a passive approach. It is an active approach. What can that mean to each of us in the hangar bay here today and to our families, to our brothers

While underway on a six-month deployment to the Mediterranean Sea and Arabian Gulf, the officers and crew of USS John F. Kennedy (CV 67), Carrier Air Wing 1 and Carrier Group 6 gathered in the hangar bay to celebrate the life of the slain civil rights leader through speech, poetry and song.

Key speaker, Cmdr. Bobbitt May, Kennedy's command chaplain, delivered a speech aimed at encouraging the ongoing realization of King's dream of equality not just for African Americans in America - but for people of all

thing about what he saw was wrong in our society," she said. "He enabled us to come together as a whole and to live our lives together as a group of people instead of individuals segregated by our color or what we believe in."

The ceremony on board JFK also included performances by the JFK Gospel Choir and ended with all those present joining hands and singing the hymn, "We Shall Overcome."

Editors note: both USS Kitty Hawk and USS John F. Kennedy Public Affairs Offices contributed to this story.

Officer programs salute enlisted efforts

By Journalist 2nd Class Sean A. Hughes, Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii (NNS) — "We need men and women who by their personal integrity, their sense of moral purpose and their acceptance of the requirement for hard work, will exemplify the best in leadership traditions of the Navy and our country." - Adm. Arleigh A. Burke.

The officer ranks are looking for "superior performers and very motivated people," said Chief Career Counselor(SW) Heriberto Sanchez of Lakewood, N.J., of the Pacific Fleet headquarters

staff. "Particularly, they want people who are already involved in off-duty education."

Yeoman 2nd Class Jose Conchas, Jr., also of Pacific Fleet headquarters, was recently selected to pursue his commission and complete his education through the Enlisted Commissioning Program.

"I've been pursuing my degree for a little while," said Conchas, of Fresno, Calif. "Last year one of my friends got picked up for ECP (Enlisted Commissioning Pro-

gram). They said I should apply, and that it was a good program with a lot of benefits."

Motivated Sailors with a head start on their college education are able to earn a commission in a variety of fields; including nuclear, medical, supply, aviation and engineering.

The commissioning programs are all designed to help advance enlisted Sailors' careers by taking various educational paths.

Chief Hospital

Corpsman(SS/AW/PJ) Edward Drish of Fleet Medical said he applied three times for the Medical Enlisted Commissioning Program before his persistence finally paid off and he was selected for the program. "I'd been turned down before," said Drish, a 15-year Navy veteran from Madison, Wis. "This time I got my degree in time, had a good grade point average, and everything came together." Drish has several reasons for

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1999 Navy Athletes of the Year honored

By Ens. Eric Petersen, Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) — Each branch of the armed forces honored their top male and female athletes at the annual United States Military Sports Association (USMSA) Athlete of the Year banquet Jan. 14 in Washington, D.C.

Vice Admiral Norbert R. Ryan Jr., Chief of Naval Personnel was in attendance to present the awards.

“This gives us an opportunity to recognize our top athletes and allow them to meet our sponsors and

supporters,” said John Hickok, head of Navy Sports. The Navy’s awardees were selected from a group of elite athletes who were nominated by their respective commands.

The Navy’s 1999 Male Athlete of the Year is Aviation Boatswain’s Mate (launching and recovery equipment) 1st Class Steven A. Mays. He’s assigned to Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla. and is a Greco-Roman style wrestler and is currently ranked number one in the

United States in the 54-kilogram weight class. The Kalamazoo, Mich., native had an outstanding year, winning the All-Navy Championships, Armed Forces Championships, U.S. Senior National Open and the World Team Trials. He was also a bronze medalist at the Pan-American Games and was ranked 24 out of 38 at the World Championships. In his free time, Mays is an active member of the DARE program, the at-risk youth organization Brother to

Brother, Inc., and has been appointed to a stewardship at his local church.

The Navy’s Female Athlete of the Year, Lt. Martha Dunne, is stationed at Naval Amphibious Base Coronado, Calif. Dunne competes in regional and national level events as a track cyclist, and ended the year with a ninth-place finish in the match sprint event at the U.S. National Track Championships. Other

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Fair Winds, Following Seas



Sailors man the rails of USS BonHomme Richard (LHD 6) as she passes downtown San Diego en route to the Arabian Gulf on her maiden deployment in support of Operation Southern Watch. U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 2nd Class David C. Mercil.

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rich history. The patriotic expressions and grass roots campaigns, coupled with the strong support from the public, local officials and members of Congress were both gratifying and impressive.

A Navy team conducted a structured, impartial, objective, and comprehensive review, evaluating both applications under the Navy's published criteria (financial, technical, and curatorial benefit to the Navy and community). Only after a detailed evaluation of all these factors did Danzig reach his decision to award the ship to the Home Port Alliance.

The Home Port Alliance

application included a comprehensive plan of exhibit design and curator organization at a site that is a developed waterfront location with cultural and tourist attractions. Additionally, they added a proposal for a detailed Navy recruiting plan at no cost to the Navy.

The Navy donates ships as a way of preserving naval history and tradition, educating the public, and commemorating the men and women who built and sailed these vessels. There are currently 45 museum ships displayed across the

country in 21 states. More Americans visit these museum ships than all other Navy-run museums. These museums give the general public the rare opportunity to experience and imagine shipboard life, first hand.

The proposed transfer is subject to the completion of all required actions preceding a donation contract between the Navy and the Home Port Alliance.

Although the Navy did not select the application submitted by the USS New Jersey Battleship Commission, which intended to display the ship in Bayonne, the Navy would like to

acknowledge the important contributions of this organization and its chairman, Joe Azzolina. Azzolina has worked successfully over the last 20 years to gain public and congressional support and raise funds on behalf of the state of New Jersey. His personal quest and patriotic efforts have been instrumental in bringing the battleship to the state.

The public support and interest in the battleship New Jersey's return have been outstanding. The Navy is very confident that the New Jersey will be well cared for and revered in its new berth on the Delaware River in Camden.

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wanting to become an officer.

"There's more opportunity to go further in your career and stay in longer," Drish said. "To be honest, I just wanted to stay in the Navy as long as possible. And of course, there was the money and the move from middle to upper management."

In order to find just the right program, Sailors need to assess the facts of the programs currently available.

"The first step is to gather the information and know exactly what the program is all about," Sanchez said. "There's information available on the (world wide) web [see address below] for every program so

the person can get a step-by-step guide on what they need to do, from the instruction to particular requirements."

While Sanchez said the command career counselor is a good place to start, "ultimately, the package is your responsibility. The package is your resume."

"You want your package to be flawless and professional-looking," said Drish, and content aside, "everything from grammar to its appearance makes an impression."

"When the board looks at it, they're looking at whether you can follow directions and whether you've included

everything," said Conchas. "It's you—who you are as a Sailor."

Conchas encourages other Sailors to become motivated and to commit themselves to improving their careers and futures.

"Take the initiative and make it happen for yourself," Conchas said. "Whoever wants to apply should do this for themselves."

Commissions are available to enlisted Sailors through the Seaman to Admiral program, the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC), the U.S. Naval Academy, the Broadened Opportunity for

Officer Selection and Training (BOOST), the Enlisted Commissioning Program (ECP), Officer's Candidate School (OCS) and the Limited Duty Officer/Chief Warrant Officer (LDO/CWO) programs.

Field-specific commissioning programs in medical, nuclear and engineering area also available.

If you think you've got what it takes to qualify for an officer commissioning program, contact your career counselor or visit the Bureau of Naval Personnel web site at www.bupers.navy.mil to begin your first steps to a new future.

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highlights of Dunne's competitive year include third place in the match sprint and 500 meter events, and ninth place in the points race at the California State Championships; and ninth place in the

match sprint and 13th place in the 500 meter event at the U.S. Elite National Track Championships. Off the track, the Rego Park (Queens), N.Y., native is a four-time winner of the Vincent Astor Memo-

rial Leadership Essay Contest sponsored by the United States Naval Institute, and is currently pursuing a Master's of Science degree in Global Leadership at the University of San Diego.

For more information about the Athletes of the Year or Navy Sports, contact John Hickok at the Navy Sports Office at DSN 882-6620, Commercial (901) 874-6620.

USS Harry S Truman Sailors finish, dedicate "house that Truman built"

By Journalist 2nd Class Joel Huval, USS Harry S Truman Public Affairs

NORFOLK, Va. (NNS) — As the doors on 1999 began to close, Sailors from USS Harry S Truman (CVN 75), in partnership with Habitat for Humanity, opened a new door and dedicated a house built for a single mother and her child in Norfolk, Va.

Referred to the new home as the "house that Truman built," the door swung open and welcomed new owner Sheila Spence after a recent dedication ceremony.

"This is overwhelming," Spence said during the ceremony. "There are not enough words to express the gratitude I have for the people who built this home. It's not just a home, it's a brand-new home and a blessing."

According to Truman's Habitat for Humanity Coordinator Chief Electronics Technician (SW/AW) David Carter, the project, which took almost a year and a half to complete, wasn't an easy task. "Negotiations with Norfolk for the land started in October 1998," he said. "Once the plans were approved and construction started, it was June 1999."

One of the biggest delays

with the project, according to Carter, was the weather. "There were several hurricanes during the construction period when we couldn't work at all," he said. "Taking into consideration the storms and a lot of time spent at sea, construction really didn't take that long."

On hand for the event were several of Spence's close friends, organizers from Habitat for Humanity, some of the Truman project volunteers and the carrier's commanding officer Capt. David Logsdon.

"The Sailors who took part in this project did a superb job," Logsdon said. "We should be doing more projects like this."

Aside from thanking the Truman volunteers, Logsdon also thanked other members of the Truman team. "I want to acknowledge our Sailors in food service for supplying lunch for many of the days. I'm proud of all who took part in this project."

According to one of HST's volunteers Electronics Technician 2nd Class Jon Wende, a Satellite Beach, Fla., native, the work wasn't easy, however it was worthwhile. "I got

involved because I was looking for something to do," he said. "Once we began working, it became addictive. I couldn't be happier with the results ... (Spence's) emotions sum up how I feel about the work I did, nothing can beat this feeling."

Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit organization that offers no-interest mortgages to low income families. It began in 1976 in Americus, Ga., and has since expanded worldwide, with more than 75,000 homes built. The South Hampton Roads chapter has built 57 homes since its inception in 1988.

Jamie Bryant, director of construction for the chapter, said the work the Truman Sailors performed was up to par with professional contract builders. "(The Sailors) did a great job," he said. "There was great support for this project and, considering some of the volunteers had little or no construction experience, no one failed to do their best and it shows in the quality of the construction."

Spence and her 11-year-old son Corey are scheduled to move into their new home in February.

On Navy/Marine Corps News

Look for the following stories and more on next week's show:

* Naval leaders attend a "Revolution in Business Affairs" conference to discuss new technology and ideas for improving the way Sailors do their jobs.

* The Navy and Marine Corps release a suicide prevention training video to help Sailors and Marines help each other.

* Sailors of USS Theodore Roosevelt make a unique kind of music as they prepare aircraft for flight.

* USS Bonhomme Richard Sailors visit Gerald R. Ford Elementary School in Indian Wells, Calif., to say goodbye to their adopted school.

Compiled on tape #2000-05, the show is on its way to the fleet now.

In naval history: Jan. 30, 1968

The "Tet Offensive" was launched in Vietnam.

The Viet Cong announced that the Chinese New Year "Tet" would be celebrated by a week-long cease fire, but launched rocket attacks instead. Communist forces captured Hue City, but it was retaken by U.S. Marines and South Vietnamese forces in heavy fighting. Massive U.S. Navy/Air Force air strikes helped defeat attackers.

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more than his trip to New York or the Sailor would have to pay additional charges.

"This is good news for Sailors and their family members that are stationed OCONUS because it is a significant quality of life improvement," said Vice Adm. Norb Ryan, Jr., Chief of Naval Personnel. "It gives all

Sailors greater flexibility when an emergency occurs."

The difference now is that there is a cost limit, instead of a limit for physical transportation.

Prior to this change, the law and regulations were interpreted as authorizing the government to pay for the cost of transportation to the nearest

CONUS international airport, but not allowing that cost to be used towards the cost of transportation to a more distant airport.

For more details on the changes to the JFTR, see MILPERSMAN 1050-130 and Joint Federal Travel Regulation (JFTR) U 7205-C1b.